



NSERC Internal Review program 2026: Discovery (DG) grant Guidelines for applicants and Request for Review form

Please read these guidelines in full as the 2026 NSERC Internal Review process is changing this year to ensure that we continue to provide the most effective peer review process.

Submission of draft documents

Before the deadline above (**July 24th**) please ensure you email your draft documents to grant.review@usask.ca using “NSERC – [your last name]” as the subject heading.

Internal Review and the President’s NSERC fund

If your DG application is unsuccessful, a potential source of support is the President’s NSERC fund (PNSERC). This program is designed to help applicant’s position their proposal for success with their next DG application. The award has a two-year term with a maximum request of \$10,000. PNSERC awardees may not reapply within the term of their award.

NEW! To be eligible to apply to the President’s NSERC Discovery Bridge Funding (PNSERC) in 2027, applicants MUST*:

a) Submit ALL THREE sections of their DG draft application to the 2026 USask NSERC Internal Review program.

These three sections are the:

- 1) Merit of Proposal (MoP); 2) Excellence of Researcher (EoR); and 3) Training of Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP).
Submitting the CCV is optional, but highly recommended.

b) Submit their DG application to Research Acceleration Strategies & Initiatives (RASI) for Compliance Review and Institutional Approval before the given deadline.

Applicants may of course participate in Internal Review without submitting all three DG sections if they do not wish to be eligible for PNSERC.

Important dates

Submission of Intent to Apply/Request for Internal Review form deadline	July 24th
Submission of DG NOI to NSERC via NSERC portal	August 3 rd
Submission of draft grant application documents for Internal Review	September 14th
Submission of application for compliance and institutional approval	October 27 th
Submission of final application via NSERC portal	November 2 nd

Please refer to the timeline on page 3 for further information on these dates and actions required.

* New faculty members who have been unsuccessful in obtaining an NSERC Discovery grant in the most recent competition and with an appointment start date after the most recent Request for Internal Review submission deadline, are exempt from this requirement.



NSERC Internal Review program
Discovery (DG) grant – Nov 2026 application
Request for Internal Review form

- Please submit this form to grant.review@usask.ca using “NSERC – [your last name]” as the subject heading.
- Forms must be received by 6pm (CST) on **July 24th**, 2026.
- The information provided in this form will be made available to the appropriate Associate/Vice-Dean Research, Associate Director Research, and administrative staff for the purposes of the NSERC DG Internal Review process.

NAME	
EMAIL	
COLLEGE/UNIT	
DEPARTMENT	
POSITION	
YEAR OF FIRST APPOINTMENT AT USASK	

WHICH NSERC APPLICANT CATEGORY APPLIES TO YOU?

- Early Career Researcher**
(began first independent academic position within the last five years)
- Established researcher renewing a DG**
(currently holding a DG)
- Established researcher not holding a DG**

SUGGESTED NSERC EVALUATION GROUP (EG) FOR YOUR PROPOSAL

APPLICATION TITLE

Please suggest up to three USask researchers who would be able to provide an expert and arms-length scientific review without any conflict of interest.

1.	Name		Email	
2.	Name		Email	
3.	Name		Email	



NSERC Discovery (DG) and Research Tools & Instruments (RTI) grants 2026 Internal Review and Application Deadlines

DISCOVERY

Step	Action	Deadline
~	Register for the DG Buddies program (optional but encouraged)	15 th June
1	Request for Internal review Submit the Intention to Apply (ITA)/Request for Internal Review form to grant.review@usask.ca using “NSERC – [your last name]” as the subject heading	July 24 th
2	Submit NOI via NSERC portal	August 4 th
3	Email a copy of the submitted NOI to grant.review@usask.ca using “NSERC – [your last name]” as the subject heading	August 10 th
4	Submit draft documents for review to grant.review@usask.ca using “NSERC – [your last name]” as the subject heading	September 14 th
5	Feedback from reviewers received	October 5 th
6	Academic Approval Upload your full application package, including CCV, to the University Research System (UnivRS) for Academic Approval	Varies – check with your Research Facilitator or A/VDR
8	Compliance and Institutional Approval <i>Note: Application must have Academic Approval on UnivRS by this date</i> You will have an opportunity to incorporate any changes required by RASI or elements you wish to address.	October 27 th
9	Submit final application via NSERC portal	November 2 nd

RESEARCH TOOLS & INSTRUMENTS

Step	Action	Deadline
1	Request for Internal review Submit the Intention to Apply (ITA)/Request for Internal Review form to grant.review@usask.ca using “NSERC – [your last name]” as the subject heading	July 24 th
2	Submit draft documents for review to grant.review@usask.ca using “NSERC – [your last name]” as the subject heading	September 14 th
3	Feedback from reviewers received	October 5 th
4	Academic Approval Upload your full application package, including CCV, to the University Research System (UnivRS) for Academic Approval	Varies – check with your Research Facilitator or V/ADR
5	Compliance and Institutional Approval <i>Note: Application must have Academic Approval on UnivRS by this date.</i> You will have an opportunity to incorporate any changes required by RASI or elements you wish to address.	October 20 th
6	Submit final application via NSERC portal	October 26 th

- Consultation with Internal Reviewers, Research Facilitator, Assistant/Vice Dean Research, Mentorship Teams etc. and the development of the application should be an ongoing process from requesting Internal Review to the Compliance and Institutional Approval deadline.

If you have any questions, please contact Michaela Lynds (Research Development Specialist, NSERC) at michaela.lynds@usask.ca